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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2008

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Report Highlights:

Domestic and export white rice prices declined slightly by 1-5 percent from the previous week in response to the cancellation of the May 5 Philippines tender. In addition, on April 29, the Thai Government approved the release of intervention stocks for domestic consumption. The stock release is expected to have a minimal impact on domestic prices as the stocks will be gradually released over the course of the year.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Indicative Prices (Week Ending Apr. 28):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,150	-	-	-	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,188	1,195
WR 100 B	880	-	-	-	930	1,090	990	973	993
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	940	-	1,090	1,015	1,025
WR 5%	840	-	-	-	910	1,080	980	953	976
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	740	-	-	-	770	-	840	783	803
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 31.5 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Domestic and export white rice prices declined slightly by 1-5 percent from the previous week in response to the cancellation of the May 5 Philippines tender of 675,000 tons of white rice. The tender is not justified as only one Vietnamese bidder submitted an offer. The bidder, the state-run Vietnam Southern Food Corp., apparently did not meet the tender requirements. The new tender may not occur until the third or fourth quarter of this year or when world market prices are expected weaken to below \$1,000/MT, C&F. Meanwhile, prices for the coming May 9 Philippines tender of 163,000 ton are expected to remain at the current level.

In addition, on April 29, the Thai Government approved the release of intervention stocks for domestic consumption. The stock release is expected to have a minimal impact on domestic prices as the stocks will be gradually released over the course of the year, starting with 1,500 tons next week. Also, total stocks available for domestic release are expected to be less than 2.1 million tons (TH8067).

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
MAR 16	193,216	182,550	1,884	914	106.2
MAR 23	204,056	190,906	2,088	1,014	105.8
MAR 30	238,638	206,698	2,326	1,122	107.4
APR 6	175,536	202,861	2,502	1,234	102.7
APR 13	157,439	193,917	2,659	1,359	95.6
APR 20	85,612	164,306	2,745	1,472	86.5
APR 27	169,952	147,135	2,915	1,608	81.3
MAY 4	135,461	137,116	3,050	1,685	81.0

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Apr. 28 – May 4, 2008 totaled 135,461 tons, down 34,490 tons from the previous week, and down 1,655 tons from the four-week moving average of 137,116 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – May 4, 2008 totaled 3,050,440 tons, as compared with 1,685,145 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2008, amounted to 3,254,946 tons, up 66.7 percent from 1,952,388 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr. 14-18, Apr. 21-25, and Apr. 28 – May 2, 2008 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr. 14-18	Apr. 21-25	Apr. 28 – May 2
Weekly sales	117,403	108,298	175,315
4 week sum	655,918	602,409	588,769
4 week mov. avg.	163,980	150,602	147,192
Total weekly sales	2,943,044	3,051,342	3,226,657

End of Report.